

October 2021 | E-Newsletter

Center for Gonorrhea Excellence

Welcome!

The Center for Gonorrhea Excellence was established as part of the CDC-funded **Strengthening the U.S. Response to Resistant Gonorrhea (SURRG)**



grant in Indiana and has become a centralized repository of information on best practices related to management of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections, especially as it relates to the threat of antibiotic resistant gonorrhea.



The center also focuses on improving the quality of data pertaining to people diagnosed with gonorrhea, which will improve our understanding of the risk factors associated with acquiring gonorrhea and the healthcare seeking behaviors practiced by patients that have been diagnosed. These activities will be included in another CDC-funded project in Indiana, the **STD Surveillance Network (SSuN)** grant and will enhance our STD surveillance activities at the state and local level.

Gonorrhea in the news

This section includes national and international headlines relating to gonorrhea.

Historic five-year investment in disease intervention workforce

The CDC's Division of STD Prevention awarded \$200 million to health departments in 2021 to expand the Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) workforce in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indiana received more than \$3.3 million, with a majority of that money being invested back in local health departments and other DIS agencies to support STD partner services, especially when it comes to gonorrhea and syphilis... [\[read more\]](#).

Indiana funded for second cycle of SURRG

In August, the Indiana Department of Health was awarded more than \$300,000 to continue expanding surveillance of antibiotic resistant gonorrhea through the CDC-funded Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant under the SURRG project. Funding in the project's second cycle will focus on continuing to expand testing options outside of the STD clinic setting within local communities, as well as ramping up outbreak preparedness and genomic testing [\[read more\]](#).

Information hub

The following sections provide specific resources available from the center as they pertain to best practices around gonorrhea. If you'd like to see more resources in these hubs, please let us know.

Did you know?

In 2019, a [cluster](#) of 16 DGI cases was reported in southwest Michigan primarily among male patients residing in Kalamazoo County who had a history of drug use— especially methamphetamine.



Provider resources



If you suspect a patient **may be a treatment failure** or **have questions about test-of-cure testing/results**, the SURRG program can help! Use this [survey](#) to request support from the state health department's SURRG program staff and any potential treatment coordination with the STD clinic in Indianapolis. Someone should respond *within two business days*.

Data & surveillance



In 2019, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services released a Health Alert Network notification concerning the investigation of 10 **disseminated gonococcal infections (DGI)**. On Oct. 29, 2019, Indiana released its own HAN concerning the identification of two DGI isolates. Since that time, IDOH has documented more than 20 cases of DGI across Indiana with the most recent cases largely focused within the northern part of the state. All Indiana cases were diagnosed within the emergency department setting.

Disseminated gonococcal infections (DGI) info



DGI remains a serious concern and providers should be aware of the [signs and symptoms of DGI](#). If DGI is suspected, specimens from urogenital and extragenital sites (as applicable) should be collected

for nucleic amplification testing (NAAT) and culture, in addition to specimens from disseminated sites of infection (e.g., skin, synovial fluid, blood, and the central nervous system). All *N. gonorrhoeae* culture isolates should be tested for antimicrobial susceptibility. The IDOH can facilitate this antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Please contact your local [Disease Intervention Specialist](#) or Justin Holderman (317-233-7749 or juholderman@isdh.in.gov) for more information.

Recent ARGC literature

- ♦ [Implementing SURRG in the Emergency Department Setting: Lessons Learned](#)
- ♦ [Enhancing preparedness through antibiotic resistant gonorrhea tabletop exercises](#)

Upcoming events

- ♦ [On Demand: STD Expert Hour- DGI](#)
- ♦ 10/27 [Social Determinants of Health: A Conversation for Public Health Professionals](#)
- ♦ 11/03 [Public Health Academy- STD 101](#)

State resources

- ♦ [STD prevention website](#)
- ♦ [Center for Gonorrhea Excellence website](#)

National resources

- ♦ [CDC Division of STD Prevention](#)
- ♦ [APHA Reproductive & Sexual Health](#)

Editor's Desk



Have news or literature you'd like to see featured?
Have an event coming up you'd like to share?

Contact the newsletter editor to submit for distribution.

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